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determining whether code input in the programmed selection formula is correct.

34. (New) The system of claim 1, further comprising subscription disabling means for temporarily discontinuing the subscription for a predetermined period of time.

35. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the search criteria corresponding to the subscription is an electronic mail message containing a predetermined text.--

REMARKS

Upon entry of the foregoing Amendment, claims 1-4, 6-9, 11-19, and 21-35 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 are amended, and new claims 33-35 are added. In view of these amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of all the claims pending in the application are respectfully requested.

Personal Interview

Applicants thank the Examiners Anh Ly and Hosain Alam for courtesies extended to Applicants' representatives during a personal interview on October 29, 2002.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 5,913,032 issued to Schwartz et al. ("Schwartz") in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,044,372 issued to Rothfus et al. ("Rothfus"). Claims 2-3, 7-8, 14-15, and 17-18 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Schwartz in view of Rothfus and further in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,141,653 issued to Conklin et al. ("Conklin"). Claims 4, 9, 12, 19, and 21-32 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Schwartz in view of Rothfus and further in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,020,980 issued to Freeman ("Freeman").

Rejections Under 35 USC § 103(a)

Independent claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 stand rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over Schwartz in view of Rothfus. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. In an attempt to advance prosecution, however, Applicants have amended claims 1, 6, 11, and 16. Independent claim 1 has been amended to indicate that the “selection formula is programmed with search criteria corresponding to the subscription,” and that the “search criteria identify information to be searched for and presented to the user at various intervals without additional user intervention.” Support for this amendment may be found at, for example, page 4, lines 5-11 and 28-30, and Fig. 1 of the specification. Applicants respectfully submit that this disclosure is sufficient to enable a person of ordinary skill in the art to make and use the invention. Applicant further submit that these features are not taught or suggested by Schwartz or Rothfus, alone or in combination with each other.

The Examiner alleges that Schwartz discloses the features of a programmable selection formula, wherein the programmable selection formula is programmed with subscription criteria, wherein the subscription criteria identify information to be searched for and presented to the user (See Page 3 of the Office Action) . Apparently, the Examiner is relying on the references in Schwartz to formulas, macros, and commands in a cell of spread sheet to teach these features. (See col. 9, lines 25-45, col. 16, lines 55-67, col. 17, lines 1-12 of Schwartz.) However, formulas, macros and commands in Schwartz are not for the purpose of programming subscription search criteria. Rather, they are merely for defining mathematical operations in a spreadsheet. Rothfus does not provide any teaching or suggestion to make up for deficiencies of Schwartz; nor do either Conklin or Freeman. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over the references cited by the Examiner.

Independent claims 6, 11, and 16 recite features similar to those recited in claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 6, 11, and 16 are also patentable over the references cited by the Examiner for at least foregoing reasons.

Dependent claims 2-4, 7-9, 12, 14-15, 17-19, and 21-35 each depend from and

add additional features to one of independent claims 1, 6, 11, and 16. Because the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination with one another, fail to disclose, teach or suggest each of the features of the independent claims, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-3, 7-8, 14-15, and 17-18 are also patentable for at least the reasons set forth above.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such disposition is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference or interview would advance prosecution of this application in any manner, the undersigned stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

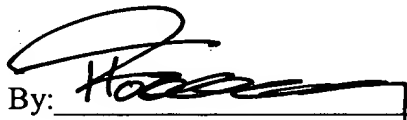
It is believed that no other fees are due in connection with filing this Response. In the event that it is determined that fees are due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the undersigned's Deposit Account No. 50-0311, Attorney Docket No. 23452-078

Respectfully submitted,

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**APPENDIX-A VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE IN
THE CLAIMS**

1. **(Amended)** A system for enabling a system user to request a subscription of at least one non-web document from at least one database, comprising:

subscription requesting means for enabling a user to request a subscription of at least one non-web document from at least one database, the subscription requesting means comprising a [programmable] selection formula, wherein the [programmable] selection formula is programmed with search [subscription] criteria corresponding to the subscription, wherein the search [subscription] criteria identify information to be searched for and presented to the user at various intervals without additional user intervention;

subscription parameter receiving means for receiving at least one subscription parameter from the user wherein the at least one subscription parameter indicates a type of information to retrieve;

search performing means for performing a search of the at least one database for information matching the subscription;

subscription retrieving means for retrieving the information matching the subscription; and

subscription notification means for notifying the user of matched and retrieved information.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the search performing means performs the search of the at least one database on a random basis.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the search performing means performs the search on a random basis selected by the user.
4. The system of claim 1, further comprising option input means for enabling a user to input one or more options relating to the subscription.
5. (Cancelled)
6. **(Amended)** A system for enabling a system user to request a subscription of at least one non-web document from at least one database, comprising:

a subscription requesting object that enables a user to request a subscription of at least one non-web document from at least one database, the subscription requesting object comprising a [programmable] selection formula, wherein the [programmable] selection formula is programmed with search [subscription] criteria corresponding to the subscription, wherein the search [subscription] criteria identify information to be searched for and presented to the user at various intervals without additional user intervention;

a subscription parameter receiving object that receives at least one subscription parameter from the user, wherein the subscription parameter indicates a type of information to retrieve;

a search performing object that performs a search of the at least one database for information matching the subscription;

a subscription retrieving object that retrieves the information matching the subscription; and

subscription notification means for notifying the user of matched and retrieved information.

7. The system of claim 6, wherein the search performing object performs the search of the at least one database on a random basis.

8. The system of claim 7, wherein the search performing object performs the search on a random basis selected by the user.

9. The system of claim 6, further comprising an option input object that enables a user to input one or more options relating to the subscription.

10. (Cancelled)

11. **(Amended)** A method for enabling a system user to request a subscription of at least one non-web document from at least one database, comprising the steps of:

requesting a subscription for at least one non-web document from at least one database, wherein the request comprises a [programmable] selection formula, wherein the [programmable] selection formula is programmed with search [subscription] criteria corresponding to the subscription, wherein the search [subscription] criteria identify information to be searched for and presented to the user at various intervals without additional user intervention;

receiving at least one subscription parameter from a user, wherein the at least one subscription parameter indicates a type of information to be retrieved;

performing a search of the at least one database for information matching the subscription;

retrieving the information matching the subscription; and

notifying the user of matched and retrieved information.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of presenting the information to the user.
13. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of periodically searching the at least one database.
14. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of periodically searching the at least one database is performed on a random basis.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein the step of periodically searching the at least one database is performed on a periodic basis selected by the user.
16. **(Amended)** A processor readable medium having processor readable code embodied therein for enabling a system user to request a subscription of at least one non-web document from at least one database, comprising:

subscription requesting processor readable code for causing a processor to request a subscription of at least one non-web document from at least one database, the subscription requesting processor readable code comprising a [programmable] selection formula, wherein the [programmable] selection formula is programmed with search [subscription] criteria corresponding to the subscription, wherein the search [subscription] criteria identify information to be searched for and presented to the user at various intervals without additional user intervention;

subscription parameter receiving processor readable code for causing a processor to receive at least one subscription parameter from a user wherein the at least one subscription parameter indicates a type of information to retrieve;

search performing processor readable code for causing a processor to perform

a search of the at least one database for information matching the subscription;

information retrieving processor readable code for causing a processor to retrieve the information matching the subscription; and

subscription notifying processor readable code for causing a processor to notify the user of matched and retrieved information.

17. The medium of claim 16, wherein the search performing processor readable code performs the search of the at least one database on a random basis.

18. The medium of claim 17, wherein the search performing processor readable code performs the search on a random basis selected by the user.

19. The medium of claim 16, further comprising option input processor readable code for causing a processor to enable a user to input one or more options relating to the subscription.

20. (Cancelled)

21. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one database is a Lotus Notes database.

22. The system of claim 1, further comprising subscription presenting means for presenting the subscription to the user.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein the subscription presenting means presents the subscription as an electronic mail message.

24. The system of claim 6, wherein the at least one database is a Lotus Notes database.

25. The system of claim 6, further comprising subscription presenting means for presenting the subscription to the user.
26. The system of claim 25, wherein in the subscription presenting means presents the subscription as an electronic mail message.
27. The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one database is a Lotus Notes database.
28. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of presenting the subscription to the user.
29. The method of claim 28, wherein the presenting step presents the subscription as an electronic mail message.
30. The medium of claim 16, wherein the at least one database is a Lotus Notes database.
31. The medium of claim 16, further comprising subscription presenting processor readable code for causing a processor to present the subscription to the user.
32. The medium of claim 31, wherein the subscription presenting processor readable code presents the subscription as an electronic mail message.
33. **(New)** The system of claim 1, further comprising syntax checking means for determining whether code input in the programmed selection formula is correct.
34. **(New)** The system of claim 1, further comprising subscription disabling means for temporarily discontinuing the subscription for a predetermined period of time.

35. **(New)** The system of claim 1, wherein the search criteria corresponding to the subscription is an electronic mail message containing a predetermined text.